



The Heron

Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
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Clinton County Development Association Gives Big!

by Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator

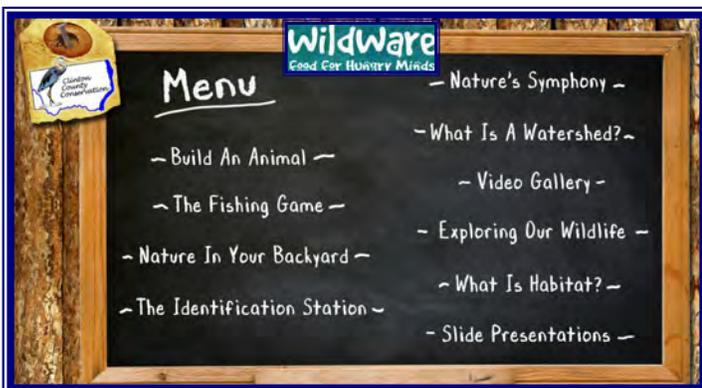
In the last issue of "The Heron", we introduced you to our new 14-passenger voyageur canoes. The 29-foot excursion canoes will be used to teach about the history of early exploration of the north and be a great, team-building activity. We also believe they will be a blast! The two canoes, christened "*The Marquette and The Joliet*", were funded by a grant from the Clinton County Development Association. It turns out that they were only the tip of the iceberg.

The Clinton County Conservation Board used \$12,923 in grant matching funds to enable the grant. The Development Association matched each dollar with three of its own (\$38,768) for a grand total for a \$51,691! The Clinton County Conservation Foundation agreed to be the financial agent for the grant monies, keeping track of all the dollars and writing the checks for dozens of purchases, big and small.

What did we get for all that cash? A whole list of much needed and specialized things we could never afford on our own. In addition to the voyageur canoes, we acquired an impressive array of educational equipment.

WildWare Nature Center Kiosks. The touch-screen computers for the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center and Eden Valley Nature Center have lots of great games and presentations in a user-friendly format.

- ◆ **Build an Animal** ~ This puzzle game lets kids build skeletons of gar, salamander, snapping turtle, great blue heron and beaver. They learn anatomy and they can even mix and match body parts to make their own mythological beast!
- ◆ **The Fishing Game** ~ This game allows kids to fish in a pond, lake or river, in deep water or along the edge, with a choice of six different baits (minnow, worm, stink, crank, fly or spoon) for a wide variety of fish.



Catch walleye, largemouth bass, bluegill, drum, brook trout, channel catfish, smallmouth bass, flathead catfish, white crappie and perch. Be careful or the big one can get away!

- ◆ **Nature in your Back Yard** ~ This nature quiz rewards correct answers with wildlife amenities for your virtual backyard.
- ◆ **Identification Station** ~ This module will test your knowledge of many local plants and animals on three skill levels. It teaches kids to look at specific characteristics to identify unknown creatures.
- ◆ **Nature's Symphony** ~ Select from a list of 12 animals, plus 3 weather conditions, to create your own symphony of sound.
- ◆ **What is a Watershed?** ~ Learn about 11 different watershed terms in this animated illustration.
- ◆ **Exploring our Wildlife** ~ Check out Nature's Notebook on 27 different, cool animals.
- ◆ **What is Habitat?** ~ In this animated lesson you will learn all about what makes good wildlife habitat for many different type of critters.
- ◆ **Video & Slideshow Gallery** ~ A collection of fun and interesting slideshows and videos to educate and entertain you.

Disc Golf Courses. The grant helped us buy equipment to improve and expand our disc golf courses.

- ◆ **Walnut Grove Park** ~ We are putting in a brand new, 9-hole course on the south side of the Wapsi River, just north of Toronto. The course holes will range from 219 to 400 feet. It will be a bit tricky, as you have to throw through trees and avoid water hazards.
- ◆ **Malone Park** ~ This 12-hole course has been in since 2007, but has always had homemade baskets. The CCDA grant has allowed us to install brand new, regulation baskets that will be installed this summer.
- ◆ **Eden Valley Refuge** ~ We are putting in a freestyle 3-hole course near the Nature Center. The concept is that you have baskets but no designated tees. It allows you to make it up as you go along. Every time you play, the course is different!



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Fishing Kayaks ~ We have been able to add 3 fishing kayaks to our fleet at Rock Creek. These super-stable kayaks work great for beginners and also allow folks the storage, rod holders and freedom of movement to fish.



Row Boat ~ We teach people to use many types of paddle craft, but were missing a very old method, rowing. It is something of a lost art. The boat is great for little ones.

Iowa Furbearers ~ We were able to acquire 18 tanned animal hides to help with furbearer education. We also had 15 custom-made track embossers to create colorful, educational souvenirs.

Birding Equipment ~ We have a great set of binoculars and spotting



scopes to help us *Build Better Birders* (see *Calendar of Events*). Two Leupold spotting scopes, 25 Nikon binoculars, tripods and accessories have been used in bird surveys and our bird hikes this past winter.

Other Educational Equipment ~ The grant also bought a hodge-podge of useful tools for us to use in our unique conservation education program.

- ◆ 4 air rifles for target practice.
- ◆ Raptor equipment including a food refrigerator.
- ◆ 30 rain ponchos for field trips, so the fun can go on.
- ◆ 25 pond nets to catch tadpoles and water bugs.

All told, the grant purchased over 220 items that will be used in our field trips and public events for years to come. I want to express again our thanks to the Clinton County Development Association and our Clinton County Conservation Foundation for making all of this possible.

Who is the Clinton County Development Association?

The Clinton County Development Association (formerly the Clinton County Gaming Association) was formed by a dedicated group of local individuals as a non-profit entity with the mission of helping to strengthen our communities and build a brighter future for Clinton County.



Fishing Has No Boundaries, Four Years And Counting...

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

This June, *Fishing Has No Boundaries* (FHNB), Eastern Iowa Chapter, will be hosting its 4th annual fishing event at Rock Creek Marina & Campground near Camanche, Iowa. FHNB is a non-profit organization that provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the outdoors and learn to fish using adaptive equipment (electric reels, pole holders, dock ramps, etc.) provided by the chapter. This is an amazing event where people who may have never held a fishing pole before get to spend the morning on the Mississippi River fishing with new friends.

This year's event is held on June 3rd, during Iowa's free fishing weekend. It hosts 60 participants, ages 12 and up. It requires an army of volunteers to make the event a success. Last year we had over 150 volunteers that assisted in all areas of the event and we expect the same for this year.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are on the hunt for volunteers! There are many opportunities to volunteer for this event, so we are looking for people with a variety of interests and capabilities. Volunteer opportunities include setting up the event the day before and morning of, directing traffic and assisting with parking, food service during lunch, being a fishing buddy with a participant and/or boat captains and clean up. All volunteers play an important role in the success of this event. In past years, we have been able to double the amount of participants due to the amount of people willing to share their day with our anglers. This event takes a lot of passionate people and we hope you will be one them!



Participants aboard the Blue Heron showing off the catch.

Fishing buddies and boat captains are at the top of our list and crucial for a fun experience of fishing for the day. Fishing buddies are people who commit to partnering up with an angler and assist them wherever needed. They are heart of the event for the participants, creating friendships that have proven to carry on year after year. Boat captains also play a very important role. We are looking for people who own boats suitable for a small group of people, 3-4 comfortably, and willing to take them out on the river for the morning of fishing. A variety of boats can qualify and our event committee does a great job partnering up the angler with the appropriate vessel. I have been a boat captain since the first FHNB event and it is one my favorite days of the summer. If you would be interested in being a fishing buddy boat captain, being a volunteer or just have questions, please contact me at 563-349-8680.

Dissecting the Facts about Iowa's Mysterious Small Mammals

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

Often, when describing small mammals in Iowa, people group them together in the rodent family. Thinking, if they are small and furry, they must be a mouse, rat or chipmunk. Iowa is home to many small mammals, many of which are very similar in size making it difficult to identify. During the winter season, these mammals often are found in our homes, seeking refuge from the cold temperatures and lack of food. It is here that we may get a closer look at these mysterious small mammals and wonder...what exactly is it?

One of these small mammals that I am observing around my home is a mole. Moles are grouped as insectivores, eating mostly beetles, grubs and earthworms. They are known for their destructive tunneling systems and, because of that,



are considered a nuisance to most people. Iowa is home to the star-nosed mole and the more common eastern mole. This animal is 5 to 7 inches long and is known for its large front feet and claws designed for digging. They are not the cutest of animals in my opinion but, just like all animals, it has



a role in our environment such as controlling the insect population. Moles are mostly solitary and are rarely seen in action. Although most people do not care for this small mammal, they are beneficial to the landscape because they cultivate and aerate

the soil while eating undesirable grubs and insects. The star-nosed mole population is unknown in Iowa. This very unique looking mole is known for its pink, fleshy tentacles that extend from its nose. These tentacles are appendages used in the sense of touch.

Another insectivore often misidentified is the shrew. Iowa is home to many species of shrews including the short-tailed shrew, pygmy shrew, least shrew and the masked



shrew. These animals are slightly smaller than the moles and, like moles, are not dangerous to your flowers or gardens. They are known for their small eyes and long nose similar to the mole but lack the large front feet for digging. They are more commonly seen than the mole but also are known for using mole tunnels to search for some of their favorite foods like earthworms, snails and insects. Being such a small mammal, the shrew has a very high metabolism forcing it to constantly be searching for food. It needs to consume up to three times its weight in food every day! Although small, the shrew is mighty and has a venomous saliva which is a unique adaptation among North American mammals. Its poisonous bite contains enough toxin to kill approximately 200 mice. While the function of the toxin is uncertain, it probably serves to paralyze small animals and stun larger ones.

Iowa is home to four species of voles. Unlike moles and shrews, voles are members of the rodent family and are slightly larger than moles and shrews



reaching lengths of 5 to 8 inches. The more common of the four species are the prairie and meadow vole. They are often referred to as a field mouse or meadow mouse because of their many similar physical characteristics to mice such as large eyes and ears, long whiskers and longer tails. Unlike mice though, voles are rarely found in the house. As a rodent, these animals are herbivores, feasting on any and all herbaceous plants, tubers, bulbs and grasses making them more destructive than the others. During the winter they may eat tree bark and roots, particularly on fruit trees. If the bark is gnawed around the entire circumference of the tree, the tree may be girdled and die. They also construct tunnels or may use old mole tunnels. They produce surface runways between burrow openings, which are especially noticeable after snow-melt or after removing a layer of mulch.

Voles, unlike moles or shrews, are more social and may be present in large numbers.

Often mysterious to us, all three kinds of small mammals play an important role in



our environment. They are a food source to many larger animals such as hawks, owls and foxes. Many of them control insect populations. These characteristics help us maintain a healthy food web keeping all things wild balanced.

Summer, Summer, Summer! Family Fun Events!

May Events

1st ~ Registration Opens for High School Yellow River Trip ~ On Tuesday, July 25th, Clinton County students from 13 to 18 years of age will depart on a three-day trip to Yellow River Forest in northeast Iowa. We will meet at the Clinton County Conservation Headquarters south of Grand Mound, Iowa, and travel north collecting others from Jackson and Dubuque counties before arriving at the forest. We'll backpack the trail system there and camp for two nights before returning to Grand Mound by 4 PM on July 27th. Participants and their parent or guardian must attend an orientation meeting (location TBA) on Monday, July 17th, from 1-6 PM. The cost is \$75/youth and no refunds will be given after July 7th as registration closes. To register, the youth must submit a letter of request to [cjacobson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov) stating why they would like to join the trip. An application will then be sent to them.



4th ~ Music in the Loft ~ 6:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Participants are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations are welcomed.

6th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ The Nature Center will be open on Saturdays, through October.

HELP! Volunteer hosts are needed, especially in spring and fall to open the Center on Saturday afternoons. It is easy and fun. Call 563-847-7202.

13th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

20th ~ Voyageur Canoe Core Crew Training ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Want to experience the joy and community of paddling a 29-foot cargo canoe on the big river? The first step is to complete our training requirements and sign on with a crew. As a crew member, you will have opportunities to expose others to this experience by serving to coordinate their strokes and maneuver the vessel. Paddlers with a variety of experience levels will be able to participate due to your involvement. Call 563-357-0759 or e-mail [cjacobson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov) to register.

20th ~ Voyageur Canoe Outing ~ Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Half hour paddle trips will be offered with our volunteer crews to lead you.



20th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

20th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Participants are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. Free event/donations are welcomed.

23rd ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Check out this great volunteer group!

26th - 29th ~ Memorial Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Join us for a fun-filled holiday weekend. Reserve campsites and cabins online at www.mycountyparks.com

Eco Tourism Fun with Sabrina! June 1st - August 13th

- ◆ **Thursdays ~ Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Bring your kids to the Eco Center to learn about the great outdoors with a story and activities!
- ◆ **Saturdays ~ Animal Encounter ~ 10 AM & 11:30 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Come to the Eco Center's Nature Gallery to touch, hold and have photo ops with the animals. Adults must accompany children.
- ◆ **Sundays ~ Critter Catching ~ 9:30 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Borrow a net to catch frogs, fish and insects in the water just outside of the Eco Center!

27th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

27th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park, at the north parking lot. Courtesy of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society, www.qcas.org.

June Events

2nd - 4th ~ Free Fishing Weekend

2nd ~ Campground Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers/park visitors.

3rd ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries Event ~ 8 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Clinton County Conservation will be hosting the 4th annual Fishing Has No Boundaries event. This event will provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities on and along the Mississippi River. We are in need of boat captain volunteers and fishing buddy volunteers! If you would like to be a part of this amazing event, please contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202.

3rd ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

6th ~ Deadline for Registration for Summer Camps ~ 5 different camps ages 6-18. See calendar for details. Register at www.mycountyparks.com/county/Clinton/Events.aspx.

6th ~ Painting Class with "Fresh Paint" ~ 6-8 PM ~ \$35 ~ Rock Creek ~ This is a "Paint and Sip" class (BYOB). It's a 2 hour event...step by step, firefly themed, painting instructions on a 11x14 canvas with *Fresh Paint* by Christine Boeve. All materials supplied! Space is limited, register at www.mycountyparks.com asap.

8th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Thursday evenings through October, there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.



8th ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll drift along under the waxing moon while local talents provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music.

9th - 11th ~ User Appreciation Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ We want to thank the visitors to our park this weekend. We have prize drawings and food specials throughout the day. Stop in the camp store and sign up to win!

10th ~ Building Better Birders Field Class & Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ World Class birder, Kelly McKay, will lead this free class for people wanting to improve their bird watching skills. The cruises will idle through the backwaters looking for and recording bird species in the Rock Creek area. An optional hike though the park for "extra credit" will be offered following the cruise portion. Call the Eco Tourism Center at 563-259-1876 to sign up! Sponsored by the Iowa Ornithologists Union and Clinton County Conservation.



10th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Every other Saturday this summer, there will be naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon on the Mississippi. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

10th ~ Fairy House Contest ~ 10 AM-Noon ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Bring your completed fairy house or gnome home by 10 AM for a chance to win fun prizes! Entry fee is \$5 per house. Enjoy games, crafts, great treats and grilled foods while judging is happening. Winners announced day of the event. More details, including rules and registration form, will be available on www.sencinfo.com.

10th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

10th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 4:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

13th - 15th ~ Pollywog Camp ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Children ages 6-7 years of age will enjoy a camp filled with Iowa creatures! Learn about wildlife that inhabit Iowa and their unique ways of life! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child by June 6th.



15th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

16th-18th ~ Father's Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Half Price Canoe Rentals ~ 8 AM-11 AM ~ Spend some time on the water with dad. Stop in the Eco Center for rentals.

16th ~ Campfire Jam ~ 7 PM ~ Sherman Park, Campground Shelter ~ Participants with musical talents are invited to play along for this "coffee-house" style jam.

17th ~ Voyageur Canoe Core Crew Training ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-357-0759 or e-mail [cjacobson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov) to register.

17th ~ Voyageur Canoe Outing ~ Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Half hour paddle trips will be offered with our volunteer crews to lead you.

17th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

17th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek

20th - 22nd ~ Creature Camp ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Children ages 8-9 years of age will take a walk on the wild side! Campers will enjoy challenging themselves with fun outdoor skills such as orienteering, archery and swimming. Cost is \$45 and registration required online. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Registration deadline is June 6th.

21st ~ Building Better Birders Field Class & Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

22nd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

24th ~ Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

24th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

24th ~ Paddling Adventure ~ 1:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Explore the back waters of the Mississippi. There will be a quick review on paddling technique and then we will hop in our boats and search for turtles, waterfowl and much more! Bring your own boat or use one of our canoes or kayaks. This is a free event.

24th ~ Campground Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley

24th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ www.qcas.org.

27th - 29th ~ Child vs. Wild Camp ~ 9:30 AM- 2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Children ages 10-11 years of age will take a walk on the wild side! Campers will enjoy challenging themselves with fun outdoor skills such as orienteering, archery and swimming while spending time on and around the Mississippi River. Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required online. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Deadline is June 6th.

27th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Check out this great volunteer group!

29th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

30th ~ For Goodness Snakes ~ 6:30 PM @ Eden Valley & 8 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ There are 27 different snakes that live in Iowa, come to meet some of them tonight!

July Events

1st - 4th ~ Independence Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Reservable campsites and cabins are available at www.mycountyparks.com

- ◆ **Saturday ~ Sprinkler Fun ~ 1 PM ~** Beat the summer heat with old fashioned water sprinkler fun. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- ◆ **Sunday ~ Crafty Kids ~ 1 PM ~** Join us in the Eco Center for a nature-inspired craft. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

1st ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

6th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 10 AM ~ Curtis Memorial Library, Wheatland ~ Birds of prey have awesome adaptations that allow them to rule the air. Meet a live red-tailed hawk up close and personal!

6th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

6th ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

8th ~ Building Better Birders Field Class & Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

8th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

8th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM



8th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 4:30 PM ~ Eden Valley

11th-12th ~ Hunter Safety Camp ~ 9 AM-3 PM~ Rock Creek ~ Do you want your child to learn how to operate and respect firearms? In this camp, they will do just that while having the opportunity to receive their hunting safety certificate! For this event, we will go far beyond the basics of hunter education standards, we will be teaching advanced shooting techniques, archery, GPS, wildlife ID and a whole lot more! All these activities will allow students to actually participate, not just listen to speakers or watch films. The course is open to kids, ages 11-16. They don't need to have received the Hunter Education Certificates already. Cost per student is only \$30 for transportation, meals, ammo and targets thanks to Clinton County Pheasants Forever sponsorship. Space is limited, so register early at www.mycountyparks.com.



13th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

14th ~ Minnow Races ~ 6:30 PM @ Eden Valley & 8 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Excitement of racing minnows!

15th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

18th-20th ~ Outback Kids Camp ~ 18th, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM. On the 19th, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM on the 20th ~ Rock Creek ~ Children 12 years of age or older. This day camp combined with an overnight canoe trip on the river is an experience you'll never forget! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required online. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Registration deadline is July 7th.

19th ~ Building Better Birders Field Class & Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

20th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

21st - 23rd ~ Christmas in July Weekend ~ Rock Creek

◆ Friday ~ Decorate Your Campsite ~ Get yourself in the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Christmas in July. We will have site judging Saturday night with prizes awarded.



◆ Saturday ~ Melted Snow Fun! ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Beat the summer heat with old fashioned sprinkler fun. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

◆ Saturday ~ Hay Rack Rides ~7 PM ~ Join us for a lighted wagon ride around the park to view decorated campsites. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

22nd ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

22nd ~ Voyageur Canoe Outing ~ Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Our new Voyageur canoes, "The Marquette and The Joliet", will be in the water and ready for folks to try them out! Half-hour paddle trips will be offered with our volunteer crews to lead you. Email [cjacobson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov) to join the crew!

22nd ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

22nd ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2-4 PM

~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam.



22nd ~ Campground Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley

25th-27th ~ High School Backpackers Camp ~ Yellow River State Forest ~ It's an Iowa adventure! This beautiful northeast Iowa area is a great place for a wilderness experience close to home. We will meet at 8 AM Tuesday morning at Rock Creek, then travel to Yellow River SF to pack-in and set-up camp for the night. The next day we will move camp and do some day-packing, then spend one more night under the stars and pack out in the morning to return to Rock Creek at 6 PM Thursday. All packs, tents, basic meals and camp stoves will be supplied. See May 1st calendar entry for details.

25th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Check out this great volunteer group!

27th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

28th ~ Birds of Prey ~ 6 PM @ Eden Valley & 7:30 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Birds of prey have awesome adaptations that allow them to rule the air. Meet one of these birds up close and personal!

29th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

29th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ www.qcas.org

August Events

1st ~ Feminine Fishing 101 ~

6:30 PM-8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

~ Ladies, have you ever felt the tug of a weighty catfish or walleye on your line? Ever been fishing at all? Here's the experience for you! Step aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat and fish from her railings with expert fisherman and DNR Conservation Officer, Eric Wright. He'll share his tips on successfully fishing the Big River from the comfort of the Heron's padded seats. Call 563-259-1876 and register today as seats will fill fast. And be sure to get on-line for your Iowa or Illinois fishing license.



3rd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

3rd ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

5th ~ Building Better Birders Field Class & Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!



5th ~ EnviroKids ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, critter catching and a chance to try our new voyageur canoes! Complete the fun with s'mores around a campfire. Adults are welcome to accompany children with water events. Call Judie Petersen at 563-357-6932 to sign up for this and other EnviroKids Events.



- ♦ June 4th Clinton Izaak Walton League
- ♦ June 10th Clinton County Solid Waste Agency
- ♦ July 1st LyondellBasell
- ♦ July 15th Children's Discovery Center
- ♦ July 29th The Sawmill Museum
- ♦ August 19th Bickelhaupt Arboretum
- ♦ TBA Clinton Lumberkings Baseball Game

5th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

5th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 4:30 PM ~ Eden Valley

10th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

11th-13th ~ Back-to-School Blues ~ Rock Creek

- ♦ **Friday ~ Half Price Canoes ~ 3-5 PM** ~ Get your family together and spend some quality time on the water. Check out a canoe to use in the backwaters.
- ♦ **Saturday ~ Hay Rack Rides ~ 6 PM** ~ Join us for a wagon ride around the park. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

11th ~ Happy Herptiles ~ 6 PM @ Eden Valley & 7:30 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Let's be herpetologists and study the many different kinds of reptiles and amphibians that live in Iowa. You will get a chance to meet some of these creatures in person.



12th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

14th ~ Mussel Beach Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Blue Heron will take participants out to learn about and wade and dunk for the 15 species of freshwater mussels that live there. Call 563-259-1876 for reservations.

15th ~ Tunes in Town ~ 6-8 PM ~ Lincoln Park, DeWitt ~ A few of our live animals will be at this great community event for you to see & touch while you listen to live music!

16th ~ Building Better Birders Field Class & Eco Cruise ~ 6:30 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Call 563-259-1876 to sign up!

17th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

19th ~ Good Morning Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

19th ~ Voyageur Canoe Outing ~ Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ Our new voyageur canoes, "The Marquette and The Joliet", will be in the water and ready for folks to try them out! Half-hour paddle trips will be offered with our volunteer crews to lead you. Email [cjacobson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:cjacobsen@clintoncounty-ia.gov) to join the crew!

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19th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal

offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are welcomed.

19th ~ Campground Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley

20th ~ Bonnie's Scenic Fishing Tournament ~ 6 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Contact Dale Tobey at 563-219-1538.

21st ~ 90% Solar Eclipse ~ 1:14 PM ~ Go Outside!

22nd ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Check out this great volunteer group!

22th & 26th ~ Iowa Hunter Safety Course ~ 6 PM-9 PM (Tues.) & 8 AM-4 PM (Sat.) ~ Clinton Izaak Walton ~ Sign up at <https://register-ed.com/programs/iowa>

24th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

25th ~ Turtle Races ~ 6:30 PM @ Eden Valley & 8 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Turtles are actually fast! Come and race to find out! Turtles will be supplied.

25th-27st ~ Lower Wapsi River Clean-up ~ Sherman Park ~ A canoe-based clean-up covering Allen's Grove

Park to the McCausland Access. Ever felt disgusted seeing junk/litter in a stream? Experience the satisfaction of correcting this and beautifying a river. Come for one or both days. Base-camp is Sherman Park. Primitive camping is free to participants. T-shirts and catered meals available. For more information go to www.lwrcp.org or email coordinator@lwrcp.org.



26th ~ Ninth Annual Rock Creek Catfish Classic ~ 7 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Clinton County Conservation Foundation is hosting this tournament to raise funds for nature center displays. Costs are \$50/boat and \$10 for the Biggest Fish Jackpot. 70% payout guaranteed to the top 3 boats. Check-in begins at 6 AM and weigh-in at 1 PM. Sign up & rules at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Events.

26th ~ Campfire Jam ~ 9 PM ~ Sherman Park, Campground Shelter ~ This is a free event, donations to support the Wapsipinicon River Clean-up are welcomed.

26th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

26th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ www.qcas.org.

31st ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

31st ~ Bat Stream Hayride ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Meet at the Eco Center to ride our hay wagon out to where the bats stream across the road towards their nightly feeding grounds on the backwaters of the Mississippi.

Save the Date

September 9th ~ Youth Outdoor Skills Day

September 23rd ~ Hawk Watch

October 6th-8th ~ Halloween Weekend ~ Rock Creek

October 14th ~ Clinton Co. Pheasants Forever Banquet

Clinton County Conservation
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www.mycountyparks.com

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Clinton County addresses can receive this newsletter at home, free. Others are charged \$5 annually. "The Heron" is on our website or emailed, free of charge.

The Clinton County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Clinton C.C.B. or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Clinton County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board regularly meets the second Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, this date can be changed.

